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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PETER TANNENWALD
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October 19, 1998

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Report of Ex Parte Communication
RM-9260**

Dear Ms. Salas:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(a)(2) of the Commission's Rules, this is to report that oral *ex parte* presentations have been made to Commission decision-making personnel, on behalf of the **Community Broadcasters Association** ("CBA") as set forth below:

October 7, 1998

Susan Fox, Senior Legal Advisor, **Office of Chairman William E. Kennard**
meeting with Douglas Jensen, Second Vice President, CBA

Jane E. Mago, Senior Legal Advisor, **Office of Commissioner Michael K. Powell**
meeting with Douglas Jensen, Second Vice President, CBA

Anita Wallgren, Legal Advisor, **Office of Commissioner Susan Ness**
(and briefly with Commissioner Ness)
meeting with Douglas Jensen, Second Vice President, CBA
and Michael Sullivan, Executive Director, CBA

Keith Larson, Assistant Chief-Engineering, **Mass Media Bureau**
meeting with Douglas Jensen, Second Vice President, CBA

October 8, 1998

Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth and Legal Advisor Helgi C. Walker
meeting with Douglas Jensen, Second Vice President, CBA and Michael Sullivan,
Executive Director, CBA

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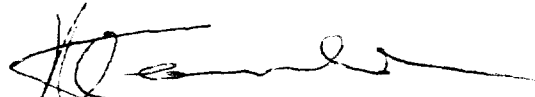
Ms. Roman Salas
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Rick Chessen, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Gloria Tristani
meeting with Douglas Jensen, Second Vice President, CBA
and Michael Sullivan, Executive Director, CBA

At these meetings, Mr. Jensen described the group of low power television ("LPTV") stations operated by his company in northern Georgia, including the value of the local programming service provided by those stations and the problems those stations face finding replacement channels after displacement by full power digital television stations. Mr. Jensen also discussed why he personally believes so strongly in the importance of LPTV and the localism that characterizes LPTV stations.

Mr. Jensen left copies of a short paper and a brochure with Commission personnel with whom it met. Copies are attached to this letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Tannenwald', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Tannenwald
Counsel for the Community
Broadcasters Association

cc: Mr. Sherwin Grossman
Mr. Douglas Jensen
Mr. Michael Sullivan
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth (Mail Stop 0106)
Helgi C. Walker, Esq. (Mail Stop 0106)
Susan Fox, Esq. (Mail Stop 0101)
Jane E. Mago, Esq. (Mail Stop 0105)
Anita Wallgren, Esq. (Mail Stop 0104)
Rick Chessen, Esq. (Mail Stop 0103)
Mr. Keith Larson (Mail Stop 1800)



C H A M B E R O F C O M M E R C E

By representing business interests to government and education, we create the "Link" necessary to forge a model community.

February 13, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Dalton-Whitfield Chamber of Commerce, I appreciate this opportunity to comment on WDNN as a positive influence in our community and an asset to our organization.

As a former journalist and political communications specialist, I have grown to respect WDNN as an effective communicator and a community advocate. WDNN is an active member of our Chamber and our organization has directly benefited from the positive local coverage of our community and region.

In particular, WDNN has strengthened the political ties of our community by providing excellent coverage of the Georgia General Assembly and our annual Washington fly in. Each year, WDNN conducts a candidate forum that gives our voters an objective opportunity to learn about all candidates with its call-in question and answer session.

WDNN steps beyond the traditional role of a news organization by advocating for business and the community on key issues. Through Doug Jensen, WDNN was instrumental in lobbying U.S. Senator Max Cleland to establish a district office in Dalton. By noting quality of life and economic advantages of our community, WDNN successfully convinced Sen. Cleland in this highly important, political decision.

Staff at WDNN was invaluable in assisting the Chamber in assembly a "community victories" video presentation for a Town Hall meeting conducted by Target Tomorrow, a community visioning project. I have personally worked with more than six current employees of WDNN on various news stories and community projects. My staff and I can attest to their professionalism, contentiousness, and dependability.

WDNN is a valuable resource to our community. We can depend on WDNN for positive news coverage, community support, and support of Chamber programs. Please contact me if we can assist you with additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rex Hammond".

Rex Hammond
President/CEO

WDNN - NORTH GEORGIA TELEVISION

WDNN's MISSION:

1. To have a positive influence on the local community by producing a fair and honest newscast.
2. To mentor beginning reporters who will one day be the leaders of the broadcasting industry.

WDNN's LOCAL PROGRAMS

WDNN is a local news and information provider that includes a daily news program, 3 weekly community talk shows, 8 local sports shows, several political specials though out the year, local election coverage, local church services and several local business programs.

The Value of Low Power Television

THE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO OUR COMMUNITY IS PROVIDED BY THREE TELEVISION SOURCES:

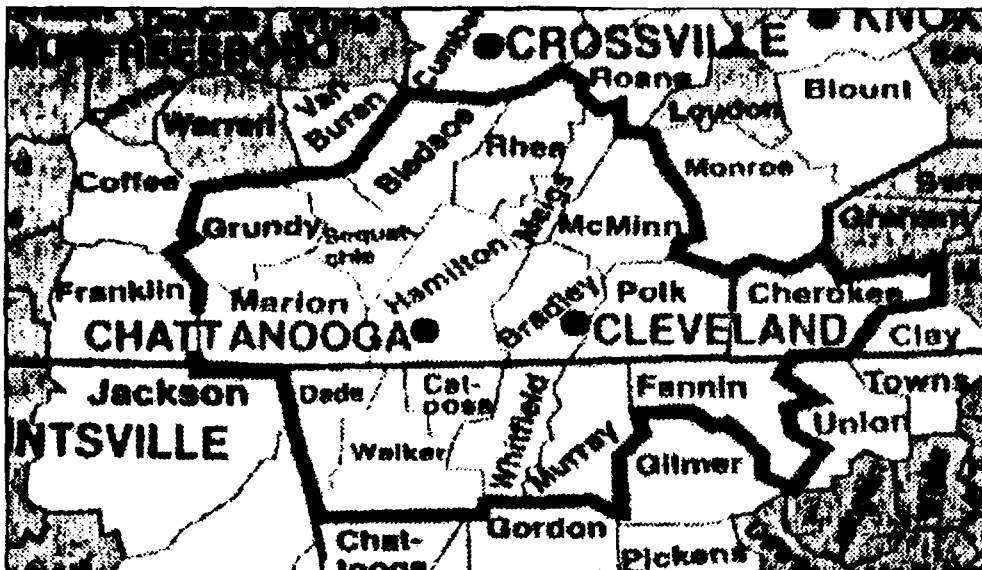
- 1) The national news sources (ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, etc.) usually provide national news but nothing locally.
- 2) The regional news sources (NETWORK AFFILIATES IN DMA) usually provide national, state and local stories in their DMA.
- 3) The local news sources (LOW POWER STATIONS AND CABLE STATIONS) usually provide only local news and sports to the community they serve.

CRITICISM OF THE MEDIA IN OUR AREA:

- 1) The media (NATIONAL & REGIONAL) approaches newsgathering from a negative point of view instead of a positive view. This kind of news promotes an attitude that effects *the quality of life in our community*.
- 2) The media (NATIONAL & REGIONAL) usually represent only the negative issues concerning the general public ignoring their responsibility to the community's public servant. This philosophy complicates the public servant's ability to govern affecting *the quality of life in our community*.
- 3) Since the media (NATIONAL & REGIONAL) has left its primary purpose of being a public servant and is interested in ratings to gain profit, they provide sensational stories instead of needful stories affecting *the quality of life in our community*.

THE CHATTANOOGA DMA:

The Chattanooga, Tennessee DMA covers three (3) states (Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina) and seventeen (17) counties.



continued on next page

THE NEED OF THE AREA IN THE CHATTANOOGA DMA?:

- 1) There is a daily need for the distribution of local information in each of the 17 counties.
- 2) Each county has its own political arena, school system, chamber of commerce and community organizations that need information distributed quickly.
- 3) Those in public office need to communicate and those in the general public need to know of current situations that are affecting their community.
- 4) Because the Chattanooga DMA covers a good portion of Tennessee and Georgia there is a need to separate Georgia news from Tennessee news.

LOW POWER IS THE BEST DISTRIBUTOR OF LOCAL NEWS AND LOCAL PROGRAMS:

The only providers of local news by television in our area are
full power stations, cable access, and low power television.

Of these three LPTV does the best for the following reasons:

- 1) Chattanooga TV cannot adequately serve the entire DMA of seventeen counties with local information because the area is simply "too big", but LPTV can divide the DMA into serviceable community segments.
- 2) Chattanooga TV produces mostly sensational stories in a county to increase ratings where as LPTV stations are community stations with the community at heart and their stories are more positive which builds up a community instead of tearing it down.
- 3) In the Chattanooga DMA, five LPTV stations can more adequately serve the area. They can tie smaller county cable systems with larger county cable systems. This way LPTV can provide the information needed and still be profitable. Only local businesses support this type of news since they do not require ratings in order to spend their ad dollars on local programs.
- 4) LPTV is better than cable in providing local programs since 40% of the Chattanooga DMA is not serviced by cable.
- 5) LPTV is better than cable in providing local programs because it can tie different cable systems in the same county or separate counties together with its over the air signal.
- 6) Because of the popularity of DBS, LPTV as a local program source can provide service to the users of DBS, cable subscribers and over the air customers.

QUESTION:

**How can the national news and regional news providers serve
our community with local news in a positive, honest and fair way?**



Some of the WDNN staff working hard every day to serve their community through news that builds and encourages.

WDNN North Georgia Television

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what is
ngtv?

*Quality People Serving
A Great Community*



The WDNN-TV Team: Top row (L-R) Jeremy Mills, Kevin Holden, Ric Giarni, Jesse Hamby, Second row (L-R): Melanie Patrick, Jasleen Puri, Tina Harvey, Cara Day, Gary Anthony, Front row (L-R): Doug Smith, Operations Director, Sherry Wein, News Director, Doug Jensen, President and Calvin Means, General Manager.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

- Chamber of Commerce
- Washington D.C. Trip
- Salvation Army Telethon
- Trouble Children Telethon
- MS Walk
- High School Mentorship

WHO WE ARE AS A COMPANY!

Our goal is to **promote a positive quality of life** in our community through local news, informational, sports and entertainment programming.

Our mission is to **produce fair, truthful and honest**

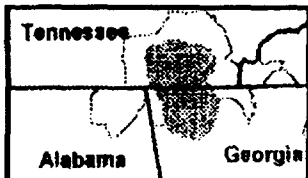
informational programs that serve both the interest of the public, our community's elected leaders, business and chamber leaders, schools and social agencies, civic groups and non-profit agencies.

As a community television station we feel a strong **desire to be good citizens by volunteering** our time and talent in our community.

**BROADCASTING PROGRAMS THAT ENLIGHTEN
THOUGH A PRODUCT OF EXCELLENCE
BY A PEOPLE OF ETHICS.**

We have a strong **commitment to the young university graduates we employ.** Since they are professionals in training, we emphasize ethics, fairness and compassionate reporting and story presentation skills.

North Georgia Television owns and operates four LPTV stations.

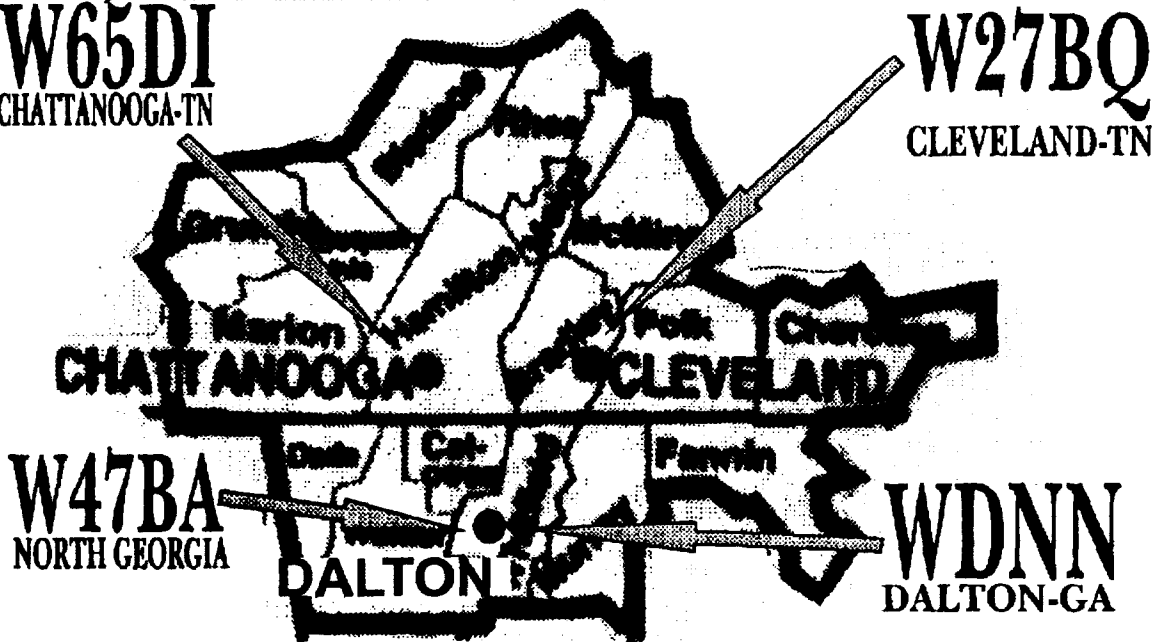


● DALTON, GA - WDNN-LP TV 43
● NORTH GEORGIA - W47BA
● CHATTANOOGA, TN - W65DI
● CLEVELAND, TN - W27BQ

NGTV BROADCAST COVERAGE AREA IN THE CHATTANOOGA DMA

W65DI
CHATTANOOGA-TN

W27BQ
CLEVELAND-TN



W47BA
NORTH GEORGIA

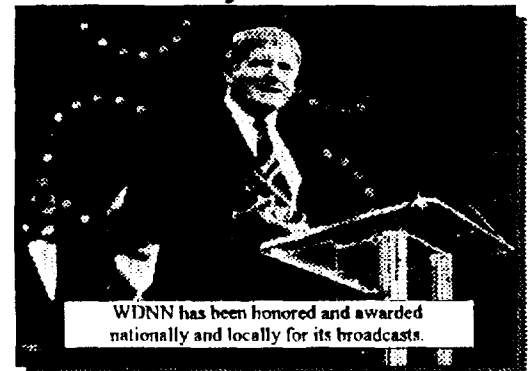
WDNN
DALTON-GA

OVER 200,000 HOUSEHOLDS CAN TUNE INTO

Locally produced programs, network programs from America One Television, FamilyNet, Atlanta Hawks, Raycom/Jefferson Pilot and syndicated programming from Rhysher, MG Perin, Time-Warner, Kelly, ITC and others.

WDNN-TV (NGTV) is carried on six cable systems.

- DALTON/Whitfield County, GA
Falcon Cable - channel 10
- RINGGOLD/Catoosa County, GA
Falcon Cable - channel 6
- CHATSWORTH/Murray County, GA
Helicon Cable - channel 10
- L/FO-CHICKAMAUGA-ROSSVILLE
Comcast Cable - channel 40
- CALHOUN/Gordon County, GA
Comcast Cable - channel 10
- CLEVELAND, TN/Bradley County, TN
Intermedia Cable - channel 01



WDNN has been honored and awarded nationally and locally for its broadcasts.

WDNN Serving the Community Through Locally Produced Programs



WDNN produces a positive, fair, and honest newscast that will serve the public's interest, helping to insure a positive quality of life.

WDNN Nightly

NewsWatch is:

- A positive newscast that promotes the general welfare of the community without ignoring the negative incidents within the public and private sectors.
- A fair newscast that does not take sides on an issue but accurately reports all sides of the story.
- An honest newscast that does not twist the news. All the facts are reported and nothing is left out or added which could distort the truth.



Calvin Means & Sherry Wein (News Director) are the anchors for NGTV NewsWatch.



WDNN produces many local programs to the community.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS: ● J.W. Bray Show ● Catoosa Directions ● Local Church Services

● La Voz De Dalton **SEASONAL PROGRAMS:** ● Football Friday ● Catamount CourtTalk

● NW Bruin Sports ● Murray Co Football ● Southeast Basketball ● Around the Bases

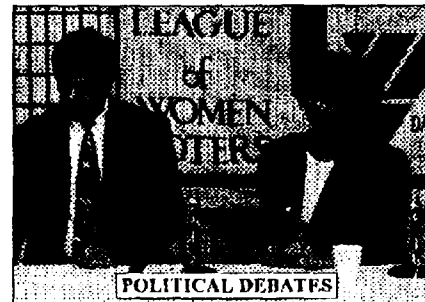
SPECIAL PROGRAMS: ● Political Interviews ● Political Debates ● Political Forum ● Election Coverage



J.W. BRAY SHOW



FOOTBALL FRIDAY SHOW



POLITICAL DEBATES



WDNN seeks to mentor young reporters who will one day be leaders in the broadcast industry.

A WDNN REPORTER IS:

- A positive reporter who thinks in terms of what is best for the community instead of promoting themselves.
- A fair reporter who always listens, and accurately presents all sides of a story.
- An honest reporter who tells the truth without sensationalism or distortion.

News reporters: Jeremy Mills, Jasleen Puri, Tina Harvey, and Cars Day with News Director Sherry Wein. Inset photo: the Sports Guys: Ric Garri and Kevin Holden.



"WDNN - North Georgia Television is the political king of Low Power Television" Keith Larson, FCC/Assistant Bureau Chief for Engineering

WDNN SERVES OUR COMMUNITY'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

WDNN serves those in political office by distributing vital and important information to our community.

POLITICAL LEADERS COMMENTS ABOUT WDNN:

Georgia Governor Zell Miller, "Having followed its broadcast for the last four years - I have found WDNN to be a solid and responsible station". **U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell**, "Whenever I think of fair & honest reporting without sensationalism, I think of WDNN-TV".

U.S. Congressman Nathan Deal, "The staff of WDNN have been very professional and efficient in their presentation of the news and other public information".

U.S. Senator Max Cleland, "WDNN does an outstanding job in North Georgia."

U.S. Senator Trent Lott, "My good friend Senator Paul Coverdell says many good things about you".



WDNN SERVES OUR COMMUNITY

WDNN develops political relationships so that the community it serves may have a voice in the political arena.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS ABOUT WDNN

Glen Rauschenberg, "I am particularly impressed with the quality of your Nightly NewsWatch - it is very smoothly presented and professionally done".

Jane Taylor, Dalton College, "Thank you again for all you do for Dalton College and our community".

Phyllis Stephens, Dalton/Whitfield Chamber of Commerce, "Thanks for a job well done on creating and enticing our members to celebrate the history of our community". **Sharon Brock, Catoosa Public Schools**, "WDNN is a much needed addition to our area.

We need more local coverage for our community. I want to thank you".

Alice Carson, Catoosa County Chamber of Commerce, "A special thanks to WDNN for your continuous support".

WDNN-TV / NORTH GEORGIA TELEVISION

101 S. SPENCER STREET, DALTON, GEORGIA 30721-3122 1.706.278.9713 / 1.800.953.6341 fax: 278.7950